# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4227
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Irregularities under Ganga River Cleaning Schemes
Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:**

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Union and State Governments on cleaning of Ganga river as on date and the details of achievements made in this regard;
(b) whether many cases of irregularities have surfaced under different schemes of its cleaning;
(c) if so, the details thereof and whether those cases are being investigated;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) whether the Government is contemplating to make any national river policy, if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Funds allocated and spent till 13.07.2016 on Cleaning of Ganga by Government since inception of National Mission for Clean Ganga is given below:

Rs.In crore
FY RE Actual Expenditure by Govt. of India

2011-12 216.61 192.58
2012-13 193.50 191.52
2013-14 309.00 303.95
2014-15 2,053.00 326.00
2015-16 1,650.00 1,632.00
2016-17
Total 4,422.11 2,646.05

Till today 97 projects have been sanctioned under Namami Gange programme in 53 towns. 32 of these 97 projects have been completed. The projects cover Sewerage and Sanitation; River Front Development (RFD); Water Quality Monitoring of river Ganga; Ganga Knowledge Centre; Educating Schools and communities for conserving habitat of Ganga river Dolphin; and "Forestry Interventions for river Ganga".
(b) No, Madam. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is not aware of any irregularities under different schemes to clean river Ganga during the period 01/08/2014 till date. The works relating to pollution abatement in river Ganga & its tributaries, including NGRBA programme has been transferred to Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation w.e.f. 01.08.2014.
(c) & (d) Does not arise.
(e) The National Water Policy, 2012 was adopted by the National Water Resources Council at its meeting held on 28.12.2012. The National Water Policy, 2012 has made several recommendations for development and improved management of water resources in the country. The salient features of the National Water Policy, 2012 are annexed. There is presently no proposal for formulating a separate national river policy by the Government.

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Annexure 1
Annexure referred to in reply to part (e) of Lok Sabha unstarred Question No.4227 due for reply on 11.08.2016
SALIENT FEATURES OF NATIONAL WATER POLICY (2012)
1. Emphasis on the need for a national water framework law, comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-State rivers and river valleys.
2. Water, after meeting the pre-emptive needs for safe drinking water and sanitation, achieving food security, supporting poor people dependent on agriculture for their livelihood and high priority allocation for minimum eco-system needs, be treated as economic good so as to promote its conservation and efficient use.
3. Ecological needs of the river should be determined recognizing that river flows are characterized by low or no flows, small floods (freshets), large floods and flow variability and should accommodate development needs. A portion of river flows should be kept aside to meet ecological needs ensuring that the proportional low and high flow releases correspond in time closely to the natural flow regime.
4. Adaptation strategies in view of climate change for designing and management of water resources structures and review of acceptability criteria has been emphasized.
5. A system to evolve benchmarks for water uses for different purposes, i.e., water footprints, and water auditing he developed to

ensure efficient use of water. Project financing has been suggested as a tool to incentivize efficient & economic use of water.
6. Setting up of Water Regulatory Authority has been recommended. Incentivization of recycle and re-use has been recommended.
7. Water Users Associations should be given statutory powers to collect and retain a portion of water charges, manage the volumetric quantum of water allotted to them and maintain the distribution system in their jurisdiction.
8. Removal of large disparity in stipulations for water supply in urban areas and in rural areas has been recommended.
9. Water resources projects and services should be managed with community participation. Wherever the State Governments or local governing bodies so decide, the private sector can be encouraged to become a service provider in public private partnership model to meet agreed terms of service delivery, including penalties for failure.
10. Adequate grants to the States to update technology, design practices, planning and management practices, preparation of annual water balances and accounts for the site and basin, preparation of hydrologic balances for water systems, and bench marking and performance evaluation etc.

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